



## **Councilmember Francisco Heredia District 3**

*News and happenings in West Mesa*

### **April 2021**

Hello District 3 Neighbors!

As the temperatures begin to rise, Mesa is starting to get busy with all kinds of exciting projects, developments, events and programs. We are starting to get back to normal, but we also have to stay safe.

Vaccine rollout is starting to gain steam and there are opportunities here in Mesa to get vaccinated if you haven't already.

I want to express my appreciation for everything our community has done for one another over the last year. It hasn't been easy, but Mesa continues to shine as a great place to live, raise a family, run a business or to spend your leisure time. There are few places better than Mesa, Arizona and we are all lucky to call it our home.

As always, you can contact my office: [District3@mesaaz.gov](mailto:District3@mesaaz.gov) or 480-644-6275

~Councilmember Francisco Heredia

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### **VACCINE INFORMATION**

Vaccination is an important step in getting back to normal and putting an end to the pandemic. The Arizona Department of Health Services has opened a new indoor, high-volume site at the Dexcom facility in southeast Mesa. At 11 a.m. every Friday, registration opens for vaccination appointments during the following week. Visit [podvaccine.azdhs.gov](https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov) to register or call 1-844-542-8201.

In addition, there are vaccination events held at the Mesa Convention Center weekly. These are generally held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with registration opening the morning before. For information on the next vaccination event at the Convention Center, follow my [Facebook page](#) or visit [podvaccine.azdhs.gov](https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov).

The City has set up a website with up-to-the-minute information, FAQs and other helpful links. The site is updated frequently, whenever more information becomes available. It can be found at: [www.mesaaz.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mesaaz.gov/coronavirus).



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## MESA COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM



2020-21 high school graduates residing in Mesa, AZ can study free at MCC!



The Mesa College Promise program provides financial support to students with demonstrated financial needs but who have not received enough Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) funds or other scholarships to completely cover the cost of college. Eligibility includes a 2.0 or better high school GPA and Mesa residency. Full details, criteria and applications are available [here](#).

The Mesa College Promise is a commitment from the City of Mesa to its residents that all eligible graduating Mesa high school students can attend Mesa Community College for two years with Arizona resident tuition and fees fully funded.

This program was created as a result of the Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force, of which I served as the Co-Chair. This is an amazing initiative and it was something that was very important to me personally and I worked very hard on helping to make it a reality. I could not be more proud that Mesa is the first city in Arizona to establish this type of program and I can't wait to see the positive impact it will have on our community.

For more information on the Mesa College Promise, click [here](#).

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## SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



As part of establishing a business in Mesa, there are a few necessary steps to take. Each commercial space needs a Certificate of Occupancy and a Fire Safety Operational Permit. Some business operations require a Mesa issued licenses and/or State of Arizona Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) license.

The City of Mesa's Development Services Department has set up a [website](#) to help guide business owners on what types of licenses, permits, insurance and other items are needed to start a business.

Visit the [Small Business Assistance Resource Center](#) for a list of information to help you navigate the process of opening small business in Mesa.

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## MESA BUSINESS BUILDER



[MesaBusinessBuilder.com](#) is a comprehensive online tool box for small businesses to help them start and grow in Mesa. This online resources provides access to critical tools such as business resource guides, business associations

and counseling agencies, incentive programs and financial assistance, data resources, entrepreneurship resources, location assistance, as well as guidance regarding permitting, zoning, utility services, licensing, and city codes.

In addition, you can connect to [Mesa's HUUB](#) where you will find more than 70 training videos and recorded seminars covering important business topics such as marketing, legal guidance, financial management, restaurant operations, web design, and much more

If you are considering starting or growing your business in Mesa, check out [MesaBusinessBuilder.com](#).

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## TRANSPORTATION SURVEY



Summer.

Voters passed the Mesa Moves Bond program in November 2020. As part of the process to gather public input on potential Active Transportation (bicycle and pedestrian) projects we are looking for feedback from YOU! Please take this seven-question survey to help focus recommendations that will be presented to City Council in the

The survey will be open until May 9, 2021. Findings will be presented at the May 18, 2021 City of Mesa Transportation Advisory Board meeting, where the public is welcome to make comments on these potential projects.

To take the survey and learn more about the public meeting, visit [here](#)

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## PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS



Summer and triple digit temperatures will arrive before you know it and now is the time to get your kids registered for Mesa Parks and Recreation summer programs including learn-to-swim swim lessons, aquatic sports teams, summer camps, tennis, pickleball and adaptive programs. You can also register for adult programs including water exercise, tennis, pickleball, softball, special interest classes and adaptive programs. Registration started this week for Mesa residents while non-residents can register beginning April 19 at 8 a.m.

Registration can be done

- [Online](#)
- Email: Email a completed registration form to [ParksRecInfo@MesaAZ.gov](mailto:ParksRecInfo@MesaAZ.gov)
- By mail: Mesa Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 1466  
Mail Stop 7010  
Mesa, AZ 85211

The goal of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities is to keep kids and adults active while following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. We are taking several safety measures for our classes and programs.

- All swim lessons class sizes will be restricted. Swim instructors will wear masks and teach from the pool deck when possible. Only one parent/guardian per participant will be allowed to enter the facility.
- For indoor classes at community centers, unless stated in the class description, parents will not remain in the building during class. Temperatures will be checked upon entry to the building and masks must be worn.
- Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities staff has the right to change these policies at any time based on CDC, government, and department policies and recommendations.

Fee assistance is available for Mesa residents with financial challenges. To qualify, residents must send in or drop off the Fee Assistance Form, along with copies of a current Eligibility Notification Letter from Mesa Public Schools Food Service Department Free or Reduced Lunch Program. Or, they can submit a copy of unemployment verification, nutrition assistance verification, WIC Assistance verification or AHCCCS verification.



For general information, call (480) 644-PLAY (7529) or visit [www.mesaparks.com](http://www.mesaparks.com).

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## CITY FACILITIES UPDATE

While several City of Mesa facilities, such as the i.d.e.a. Museum and the libraries have re-opened with limited capacity, many other city facilities are still closed to the public. For a complete update of which City facilities are open, closed or available by appointment, click [here](#).

A reminder that masks must be worn at all times while inside City of Mesa buildings.

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## APRIL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS



The Mesa City Council holds two Council meetings a month, in addition to weekly study sessions. All meetings can be viewed live on both the [City's Facebook page](#) and [Mesa Channel 11's YouTube page](#).

Council meetings are currently being held virtually and the process for citizens to participate in the meetings can be found [here](#).

### **April Council Meetings**

Monday, April 19- 5:45 p.m.

### **April Study Sessions**

Thursday, April 15- 7:30 a.m.

Monday, April 19- 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 22- 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 29- 7:30 a.m.

*\*- Meetings subject to start time changes*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### April 17- [Holiday Play Earth Day at Carriage Lane](#)

Be an environmental superhero! Join us on April 17th at Carriage Lane Park for another Holiday Play event. Learn ways to use the items you already have around the house to help make your home, neighborhood, and the earth a little greener. We will have tree and flower planting activities, photo opportunities, and an upcycling activity. We look forward to seeing you there. Registration is available online [here](#).



**April 21-** Mayor Giles' State of the City Virtual Event. Register [here](#).



## STAY INFORMED



Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! For Council meeting info click [here](#). Visit [Mesa Channel 11](#) for more updates.

Phone: 480-644-6275 Email: [District3@mesaaz.gov](mailto:District3@mesaaz.gov)

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